

specialized research since, unlike the Civil War-era Army records, the Navy service records were not separated by race. Howard's research team, headed by Dr. Joseph Reidy, has examined numerous Civil War-era Navy muster rolls. Information on thousands of men has been entered into a research database. Following up on clues in the muster rolls, researchers have also begun looking at selected pension records. The project's work with primary sources means that not only is the project identifying sailors names, but it is also compiling new and important information about

the role of African-American sailors in the Civil War-era Navy. The three-year project is a cooperative effort of Howard University, the National Park Service, and the Naval Historical Center.

For more information about the CWSS, contact the NPS Project Manager, John Peterson, at 202-343-4415, or Ida Jones at 202-343-4447.

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*John Peterson is Project Manager of the CWSS.*

*Ida Jones is a public historian working on the CWSS project.*

John H. Dryfhout

## The Search for African-American Descendants of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment

**S**aint-Gaudens National Historic Site is actively trying to locate African-American descendants of the famed Massachusetts 54th Regiment whose courageous story was told in the movie, *Glory*. This regiment was also the subject of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens' masterpiece, the *Shaw Memorial*, which stands in Boston Common.

The final version of the heroic-sized Shaw Memorial, one of the greatest works of American sculpture ever produced, is exhibited at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire. This particular cast, completed in 1901 for the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, represents Saint-Gaudens' final rendition of the earlier (1897) bronze in Boston Common. The relief in Cornish is made of plaster, and was never cast in bronze. Temperature and humidity have caused serious deterioration in the plaster and in order to preserve the monument for the future, the National Park Service and the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, a partnership organization, are raising \$450,000 to cast the relief in bronze.

The project is planned for completion in 1997, the hundredth anniversary celebration of the Shaw Memorial unveiling. The full scale plaster relief will be made available on a long-term loan by the National Park Service to a major museum in the United States.

Donations toward the \$450,000 project are being accepted by the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, c/o the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, RR 3, Box 73, Cornish, NH 03745.

In conjunction with the casting project, the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, and the Boston African-American National Historic Site are seeking descendants of the men who served in the 54th Regiment. At the same time, information is also being sought on the African-American men who Saint-Gaudens hired during the 1880s and 1890s as models for the sculpture. Historic photographs of the unveiling and dedication of the Shaw Memorial showing the 54th veterans in their uniforms are also needed.

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site consists of the home, studios, gardens, and collections of the sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907). One of only two National Park Service units dedicated to a visual artist, the 150-acre site is open daily from late May through late October.

For more information on the project, contact Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, telephone 603-675-2175, Fax 603-675-2701, e-mail SAGA@VALLEY.NET.

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*John Dryfhout is Superintendent of Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site.*



*Shaw Memorial,  
Boston, MA.*